



Bright Sparks Learning Club Volunteer

Location	Selected primary schools in Western Sydney
Why we need you?	<p>SPARK is a settlement support program that provides social, cultural and educational support to newly arrived children and families of refugee and migrant background.</p> <p>Settling into a new school environment can be a challenging experience for recently arrived children, particularly those whose education has been disrupted by traumatic experiences. SPARK's Bright Sparks program is an after school learning club where children have the opportunity to build confidence, develop and strengthen skills and enjoy positive relationships. The club's focus is on broad learning, it is not just a homework club.</p>
Who we need?	Enthusiastic, energetic and positive volunteers who bring a sense of fun to activities. Volunteers are patient, approachable and sensitive to cross-cultural issues and challenges. They are team orientated, committed and reliable. A sound knowledge of English is required.
What you will be doing?	You'll work with a team of volunteers and SPARK staff to provide a positive learning environment, helping children to settle into the school and become interested in learning. This might include; strengthening English skills by engaging the children in conversation, helping them feel more settled and confident in the classroom by assisting with homework or other academic learning; developing social skills by facilitating group activities and games; making learning fun by implementing learning through play; building confidence by recognising and celebrating the children's strengths.
What will you get out of it?	This is a fun and creative way to experience the diversity and richness of other cultures while enjoying the rewards of helping others. SPARK volunteers are well supported with professional help and ongoing training available. Leadership opportunities are available.
How long is the commitment?	Typically, 2 hours per week, 7 weeks per term. Volunteers commit to a minimum of 2 terms per year – <i>but we'd love you to sign up for more.</i>
Want to know more?	For more information, call us on 9568 0280 or apply directly at spark.vinnies.org.au





IMPACT

SPARK's key aim is that families and children from a refugee, asylum seeker and migrant background settle well. They are able to fully participate in the community's social, educational and economic life, and so are less vulnerable to exclusion and discrimination, social and health issues, and disadvantage.

Children: Newly arrived children from a refugee and migrant background settle well into school and their community. They have learning and social skills, and make good academic progress. They have resilience and good emotional and mental health.

Families: Newly arrived families settle well into the school and local community. Parents engage with and support children's learning; have the confidence and knowledge to connect with the school and the awareness, skills and connections to access support and progress their settlement.

Schools: Schools have the capacity to support the successful settlement of newly arrived children and families into school and the school community. Schools partner on initiatives that support the children's learning and adjustment, and engage parents in children's learning and in school community activities.

SPARK delivers programs across 10 schools in Western Sydney and works with several community partners within Fairfield, Liverpool, Auburn and Parramatta.

SPARK reaches 300 children on weekly basis and another 200 children through workshop based programs. It engages and supports 150 parents and toddlers through workshops, excursions and support programs.

Join our volunteer team! Fill in an application form at spark.vinnies.org.au



"I have had a wonderful time at the program, it felt awesome being a part of something big, meeting like-minded people...but above all, having some laughs."

- SPARK Volunteer

"SPARK is a great program for kids because it gives them a chance in life and it gives them a bright life, and if they cooperate, they will be a star."

- SPARK Student